

SUMMER EVENTS
THE CALENDAR — PAGES 6-7

SUMMER 2002

The Palace

TRYON PALACE HISTORIC SITES & GARDENS



Three Cheers for Our Volunteers!



A Little Night Music

A large and enthusiastic audience turned out at Tryon Palace May 13 for the opening event of the new South Lawn Concert Series. The program, the first of four free outdoor musical events on the Palace's majestic lawn, featured the debut concert performance of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Band, which united the U.S. Marine Corps bands from Camp Lejeune and the Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station for the first time ever. The 2002 South Lawn Concert Series concludes at 7 p.m. July 1 with a performance by the Raleigh-based 440th Army National Guard Band. For complete details, see *The Calendar* on Page 6. ♦

Special Tours for Special Interests

Art lovers, antique collectors, and garden hobbyists, take note: In response to requests from visitors with specialized interests, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens has launched a new series of special guided tours that focus on particular aspects of its stellar collection of antiques, *objets d'art*, and heirloom plants.

The popular new Tryon Palace Decorative Arts Tour, which has been offered once each month since April, expands to a weekly schedule beginning Saturday, July 6. From that date on, the Decorative Arts Tour will be offered at 2 p.m. every Saturday.

The 90-minute tour gives visitors an in-depth look at the important English and American furniture, ceramics, silver, textiles, and works of art in the Tryon Palace collection. Guides specially trained in the decorative arts lead the tours.

No advance reservations are required for the Decorative Arts Tour, which is available as an option at no extra charge to anyone with Tryon Palace's regular Governor's Pass ticket.

Horticulturally inclined visitors will also want to mark their calendars for Saturday, Sept. 7, when Tryon Palace's specialized weekly Garden Tour returns for the fall season.

Tryon Palace garden volunteers lead the walking tour through the site's 14 acres of grounds and gardens reflecting a timeline of English and American garden history.

The new Garden Tour, which also made its debut in spring 2002 before taking a hiatus during the hot months of summer, will be offered again at 11 a.m. every Saturday throughout the fall, beginning Sept. 7. It is open at no extra charge to all visitors with Governor's Pass or Garden Pass tickets. ♦

The Palace

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Tryon Palace Council of Friends

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On the Cover

Volunteer Vicki Linley, part of Tryon Palace's growing group of dedicated volunteers, teaches the fine points of handloom weaving to Daniel Miller of Cary, N.C. Story on Page 4.



The Face of Tryon Palace

FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS, VISITORS HAVE BEEN LEAVING TRYON PALACE JUST A LITTLE BIT RICHER BECAUSE OF THEIR ENCOUNTERS WITH ANNE HORNER

By Betsy Figueroa

The Visitor Center at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is often the first place travelers stop when they arrive in New Bern. Luckily for them, that first encounter puts visitors in touch with the person who just may be the one New Bernian best qualified to help with anything a visitor needs to know: Anne Horner.

Officially, Horner's job is to sell tickets for Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. Unofficially, she provides even more valuable service as the Palace's living-breathing-walking encyclopedia of local history.

A typical encounter with Horner may start with a visitor's simple inquiry: "Just where are we?" At that point, Horner is more than happy to let them know they have arrived in historic New Bern, home of royal governors and the first state capitol. While she is selling them a Governor's Pass ticket, she regularly fields questions about New Bern's history, both recent and past; her answers display a fund of knowledge far beyond what one might expect from even the most detailed local guidebook.

It was this love of things historical, in fact, that drew Horner to join the ranks of Tryon Palace guides in November 1963, a mere four years after the reconstructed Tryon Palace first opened its doors. Her nearly 40 years of experience now rank her among the Palace's longest-serving employees.

So just what keeps her coming back day after day for all these years?

"The people," Horner says simply. "Meeting new people, and the people I work with. If I'm gone a few days, I miss it."

The Palace's hostess extraordinaire was born in Bath, N.C., and grew up in both Washington, N.C., and Norfolk, Va. She attended Pineland Junior College and Montreat College before marrying Walter



Ticket seller Anne Horner greets visitors with a wealth of information and Southern charm.

Horner in 1948 and moving to New Bern. Anne likes to relate she is not a native New Bernian, having lived here *only* 50 years — and having been told as a new bride that she "would never be a native" since her grandparents weren't born here.

Long before joining the Tryon Palace team, Anne was a busy homemaker raising three sons. Her hobbies included collecting cut glass and on occasion donning a scarf to fly with Walter in their single-engine plane. Together with her sister-in-law, Jean Barker, Horner also once owned and operated a craft shop.

Horner first came to work at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens to continue a longtime passion, the study of history. She started as a Tryon Palace guide.

But Horner's vast knowledge of history and geography made her a natural at the front desk. If a visitor asked how many U.S. presidents had visited New Bern, she quickly answered, "Three," and regaled the visitor with a tale of how President Harry S. Truman's entourage once tied up traffic for miles. If a visitor was trying to connect with local relatives, a quick phone call by Horner sometimes reunited the family. And one set of guests even walked out of the Visitor Center with directions to a nearby family gravesite.

"Anne's compassion for others never ceases to amaze me," says Terry Faulkner, who, as tour operations manager, supervises Tryon Palace's guides and ticket sellers. "She calls to check on guides if she knows they're ill, she remembers birthdays of people too numerous to mention, and she keeps up with guides who retired from Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens before most of us even started here."

"Her knowledge of our institutional history as well as our local history is truly amazing. Anne has been a good friend as well as a mentor to me since I started here in 1985."

When Horner isn't busy behind the Visitor Center's front desk, she enjoys world travel, and colleagues benefit from her tales of trips abroad and the English Heritage magazines she provides in the staff off-duty room. These days her travels often take her to Raleigh, Atlanta, Richmond, or New York City, where her three sons and five grandchildren live.

Whenever Horner is behind the front desk greeting visitors, though, she carries on a long Tryon Palace tradition by putting guests first, providing them with both a wealth of information and a taste of Southern charm. It's that winning combination that makes her such a valuable part of the Tryon Palace experience for thousands of visitors each year. ♦



Three Cheers for Our Volunteers

AS TRYON PALACE'S VOLUNTEER ARMY GROWS BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS, ITS RECRUITS FIND THEY GET AT LEAST AS MUCH AS THEY GIVE

By Carl Herko

When Vicki Linley got dressed up in 18th-century servant's garb and spent time with schoolchildren in the Palace courtyard during Home School Days at Tryon Palace this spring, she was there to do something very old: teach youngsters the intricacies of weaving with a Colonial-era hand loom.

She was also doing something very new: Mrs. Linley is part of a still young — but rapidly growing — cadre of volunteers who, with each passing day, play an ever greater role in the operation of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.

Vicki is a retired human resources director for a group of veterinary hospitals. Her husband Ralph, a retired elementary school principal, is also an active volunteer. The Linleys are in many ways typical of the kind of people who volunteer at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. Retirees from Michigan who began spending their cold-weather months in New Bern in 1995, they got involved as volunteers because they are history buffs, because they want to spend their retirement doing something productive and being helpful, and — no less important — because they get as much out of volunteering as they put into it.

"My husband has always been involved with small children," says Vicki. "When he retired and we came down here, he almost went through withdrawal. He didn't have any children to work with."

The Linleys visited Tryon Palace one Christmas, liked what they saw, and Ralph got involved first as part of Tryon Palace's Civil War encampment and later as a blacksmith. He found out he could do something he enjoyed — he had done blacksmithing in Michigan — and he could be with children again.

The rest is, as they say, history. Vicki soon joined her husband in the Tryon Palace volunteer corps, helping out

wherever help was needed. One day might find her guiding visitors through the Palace kitchen; the next, teaching historic weaving techniques to youngsters visiting during Home School Days. Ralph, when he's not at work in the Tryon Palace blacksmith shop, might be found demonstrating the fine points of Colonial-era candle-dipping techniques for a group of visiting children, or even lending Vicki a hand with the weaving demonstrations.

"If I'd known it was going to be this much fun," Ralph says, "I'd have retired earlier so I had more stamina."

The range of activities volunteers take part in these days at Tryon Palace runs the gamut, says Volunteer Coordinator Fran Campbell, from teaching Colonial skills like the Linleys do, to gardening and decorating for the holidays, to archaeological research. The Palace even has group of four volunteer computer gurus who come in regularly to keep its computer network in good working order.

Until recently, the Palace's volunteer program consisted of no more than a few dozen people who came in once a year to help assemble Christmas decorations and a small but dedicated handful of others who came in more regularly to pitch in alongside the staff gardeners. Its importance — and its size — has grown immensely in recent months, though, as Tryon Palace staff members have come to rely more and more on volunteer assistance to keep things running smoothly and to



"If I'd known it was going to be this much fun," says Ralph Linley, "I'd have retired earlier."

keep the quality of the experience high for visitors in a time of severe state budget cuts. In spring, for example, when the Tryon Palace gardens were overrun by the little feet of second-graders taking part in its Young Sprouts program of nature lessons, 19 of its 24 Young Sprouts classes were run by volunteers.

Today the Tryon Palace roster of volunteers contains more than 225 names, about 70 of whom volunteer on a regular basis.

"I've been so impressed, not only with the quality of the volunteers but with their dedication," says Campbell. "Regardless of

what they've signed up to do, whenever we need people, I just pick up the phone and ask if they would be willing to come in, and it's rare when I do not get a positive answer. They never just say, 'No, I don't do that.' And that's remarkable."

Rather than simply trying to plug a new volunteer into a pre-existing job, though, Campbell tries hard to match the Palace's needs with a volunteer's skills and interests. It's what makes for a successful volunteer program, says Campbell, who earlier in her career headed similar volunteer programs for the Red Cross. But the right match isn't always the obvious one, she warns.

"At the Red Cross, we had a volunteer who was the public relations person at a bank, and at one meeting where she heard about one volunteer opportunity that interested her she spoke up and said, 'I'd have given anything if someone had told me this opportunity existed, but they immediately plugged me in to PR. I do that every day; I don't want to do that when I'm volunteering.'"

"I think that's one of the greatest values we have here," Campbell says of Tryon

Palace. "We have a lot of volunteers who are retirees — people who have wonderful skills — but they may not want to use their professional skills; they may want this to be more an avocation than their former vocations. So that's what we try to do."



Some Tryon Palace volunteers, in fact, have tried their hand at three or four different tasks before finding the right niche for themselves.

A volunteer who likes to simply be called "B" Braley — "Nobody knows me by my first name down here at all," she explains — is one of those. When we catch up with her, she's hard at work in Tryon Palace's Archaeology Lab, attempting to reassemble the pieces of an old spittoon that recently turned up in an archaeological excavation of the Palace's entrance allée.

"I started at Christmas, working on decorations," Braley recalls. "Then I worked in greenhouse, and when Fran Campbell sent around a paper about the archaeology project, I thought, oh, I've never done that before, I'll try that. And I guess I must have a knack for finding the pieces that go together, because this is the second bowl I've done."

"In the meantime, they called me from the sewing room and asked if I'd like to sew, and I said, 'Oh sure,' so I've been making caps and aprons too. I'm willing to try anything."

Braley, a retired dietitian who moved to New Bern from the Pittsburgh area 16 years ago, is what might be called a professional volunteer now. In addition to her one day a week at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, she volunteers at New Bern's Visitor Center and the Bank of the Arts, as well as at Red Cross bloodmobiles. She even got a volunteer award from Craven County one year and another from the governor.

"I don't want a full-time job," she says. "I'm too busy volunteering."

The best thing about being a volunteer,

How About You?

More volunteers are needed to take lead and support roles in 2002 summer programs at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. This is a great chance for adults and teenagers to test their interests and skills in new and exciting experiences. To join us, call Volunteer Coordinator Fran Campbell at 514-4951.

We have opportunities for computer specialists (both hardware and software), data entry, character interpreters, gift shop assistants, entertainers, garden guides, youth leaders/assistants, special events assistants, and experienced brick masons.

Braley explains, is meeting people and learning about new things.

"I never had time to volunteer when I worked, and I made up my mind that when I retired, that's what I was going to do," she adds. "I think it's a wonderful place to meet people when you're volunteering. I know people all over town."

And much to her surprise, Braley says, even something like piecing together artifacts from the past in the Tryon Palace Archaeology Lab has turned out to be fun.

"It's like a big jigsaw puzzle, and when you get two pieces to fit together, you're so excited," she explains. "All of a sudden you have a bowl, and it gives you a real thrill. You think you're an artist. It's like painting a picture."

Campbell says such sentiments — and such enthusiasm — are common among the volunteers at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.

"We recently put together a focus group to ask our volunteers what they want from us in terms of benefits," she says, "and the volunteers looked at me as if I was from Mars. They said we're already getting what we want. It's fun. We come because we enjoy it. We're doing something that we want to do."

"We're in it just because this is what we enjoy doing." ◆



"B" Braley says she has no time for work: "I'm too busy volunteering."

July



- 1 South Lawn Concert Series:**
440th Army National Guard Band
Monday, 7 p.m. South Lawn of the Palace. Free. Bring along a picnic, blankets, and lawn chairs (no alcoholic beverages, please).

The 2002 South Lawn Concert Series wraps up with a reprise performance by the Raleigh-based military band that brought Tryon Palace concertgoers to their feet at its 2001 debut. An evening of great music ranging from hot show tunes to cool jazz.

- 4 Dance Class:**
Invitation to the Dance
Thursday, two sessions at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jones House garden, Pollock & Eden streets. Free.

Learn the country dances of Colonial America with Simon Spalding, living history programs manager, at this 18th-century dance workshop. Newcomers are always welcome. No dance experience is required, and children 8 and older are welcome with an adult. Bring comfortable shoes.

- 8 to 12 Day Camp:**
Camp Yesteryear
Daily, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$40 per student, with enrollment limited to 25 students. Call Craven County Recreation & Parks, 636-6606, to register.
Camp Yesteryear is a weeklong day camp that allows children entering Grades 4 and 5 to explore Colonial life. Small groups will

learn about hearth cooking, fiber crafts, Colonial games, archaeological exploration, and natural history.

- 13 Garden Lecture:**
Sex in the 18th-Century Garden
—A Revolution in Natural History
Saturday, 10 a.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends.
Why are asparagus, lilies, and onions in one family while strawberries, roses, and apples are in another? Curator of Gardens Perry Mathewes looks at Carl Linnaeus, the man who scandalized 18th-century society when he created our modern system of classifying plants based on their sexual anatomy.

- 17 Workshop:**
Native American Life and Crafts
Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Visitor Center. \$8. Space is limited, and advance reservations are required; call 514-4935 for reservations.
In this three-hour workshop, students ages 8 to 12 will use hands-on activities and discussion to learn about Native American life in Eastern North Carolina at the time of European contact.

- 20 Dance Class:**
Invitation to the Dance
Saturday, two sessions at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jones House garden, Pollock & Eden streets. Free.
See the July 4 listing for details.

- 21 Walking Tour:**
African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour
Sunday, 2 p.m. Meet in the Visitor Center. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Council of Friends.
Learn about the lives of 19th-century free

blacks in New Bern. A Tryon Palace guide will conduct the tour of downtown's important African American sites.

August

- 3 Dance Class:**
Invitation to the Dance
Saturday, two sessions at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jones House garden, Pollock & Eden streets. Free.
Learn the country dances of Colonial America with Simon Spalding, living history programs manager, at this 18th-century dance workshop. Newcomers are always welcome. No dance experience is required, and children 8 and older are welcome with an adult. Bring comfortable shoes.
- 3 Film Festival:**
African American Film Festival
Saturday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. Free.
Films on African American history and culture, suitable for children and adults, will be shown throughout the afternoon

- 6 Movie:**
Nicholas and Alexandra
Tuesday, 7 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. Free. Sponsored by the Tryon Palace Council of Friends.
The last Romanov czar, Nicholas, his bride Alexandra, their doomed family, and the dark mystic Rasputin are brought to life in this masterwork of love and political intrigue. The screen glitters with lavish locations and fine acting.

- 10 Garden Lecture:**
Perennials for the Southern Garden
Saturday, 10 a.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the

Tryon Palace Council of Friends.
Many garden books focus on a plant's ability to withstand a winter freeze, but gardeners in the South are often more concerned about their plants surviving the summer. Curator of Gardens Perry Mathewes looks at perennials that can stand up to heat and humidity of the South.



the fashions worn by men, women, and children during the second half of the 18th century.

September

- 3 **Movie:**
A Tale of Two Cities
Tuesday, 7 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. Free. Sponsored by the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. A stellar 1980 adaptation of the timeless Charles Dickens classic about love and devotion set amid the turmoil of the French revolution. Starring Peter Cushing and Chris Sarandon.

- 14 **Garden Lecture:**
Attracting Birds to the Garden
Saturday, 10 a.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. John Fussell, author of *A Birders Guide to Coastal North Carolina*, explores ways to make your garden more attractive to birds. Following the talk a tour of the Tryon Palace gardens will highlight the interesting plants and birds found on site.



- 21 **Children's Workshop:**
Dig It!
Saturday, 10 a.m. Meet in the Visitor Center. \$8 per child; limited to 15 participants; call (252) 514-4935 for reservations. Students will learn how archaeologists

find out about the past by participating in a simulated archaeological excavation. A three-hour program for children ages 9-12.

- 22 **Walking Tour:**
African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour
Sunday, 2 p.m. Meet in the Visitor Center. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Council of Friends. Learn about the lives of 19th-century free blacks in New Bern. A Tryon Palace guide will conduct the tour of downtown's important African American sites.

- 17 **Dance Class:**
Invitation to the Dance
Saturday, two sessions at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jones House garden, Pollock & Eden streets. Free. See the Aug. 3 listing for details.

- 18 **Walking Tour:**
African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour
Sunday, 2 p.m. Meet in the Visitor Center. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Council of Friends. Learn about the lives of 19th-century free blacks in New Bern. A Tryon Palace guide will conduct the tour of downtown's important African American sites.

- 24 **Saturday Sampler:**
From Head to Toe — 18th-Century Clothing From the Inside Out
Saturday, 10 a.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Council of Friends. Curator of Interpretation Sara Kirtland Spalding will give a slide presentation on

Naked Ladies in Your Garden? Now That's Something Worth Looking At

By Perry Mathewes

Do you have any naked ladies in your garden? If not, a visit to the Tryon Palace gardens is worth your time. A leisurely summertime walk through the Wilderness Garden behind the Palace will expose you to many naked ladies standing around in the July and August heat — and prove that you have great choices for the summer garden beyond the standard annuals and crape myrtles.

The naked lady (*Lycoris squamigera*), also known as the magic lily or the resurrection lily, is a bulb whose late summer blooms arrive with a splash. Its two-foot stem shoots up from the ground, bare of foliage (hence the name naked lady) to produce a cluster of stunning trumpet-shaped lavender flowers each year. After a week or so of baring all, it dies back to the ground before the foliage even dares to appear from the ground.

By the end of August the naked lady's cousin, the red spider lily (*Lycoris radiata*), appears in similar fashion. This time the

bare stalk produces a delicate bright red flower that looks very exotic. Again the foliage waits politely for its turn at the sun and will last through the winter before dying back in the spring, like a reminder that the bulb is there for the gardener busy planting other flowers.

Both plants are from Japan, but the red spider lily has a special connection to New Bern. The first of these bulbs to appear in the United States came to New Bern directly from Japan. Capt. William Roberts, a New Bernian, was with Commodore Matthew Perry when he opened Japan in 1854. When Roberts returned to New Bern, he brought back several bulbs for his sister-in-law, Lavinia Roberts, whose home stood on the southeast corner of Metcalf and Pollock streets. She planted them, and after several years (supposedly during the Civil War) they bloomed. From her garden they were spread throughout the Southeast.

I love seeing these bulbs in the garden. We have large sweeps of red spider lilies in the Palace garden, and they can be a real showstopper when they are at their peak. They are easy to grow, too. Plant them in early to midsummer — about three to four inches deep for the spider lily and a little deeper for the naked lady. They will not bloom until the bulb adjusts itself to the right depth, which is why Mrs. Roberts had to wait a few years before hers bloomed. So don't get upset if they don't show the first year. After that, enjoy the show; if you forget where you planted them, they will reappear as a pleasant surprise.

Another plant that is a little more modest but no less conservative, Joseph's coat (*Amaranthus tricolor*), is a large annual prized for its multicolored leaves. This is not a subtle plant; it can grow four feet tall or higher. The erect, multi-branched plant produces clusters of leaves that are usually crimson and yellow near



Naked lady shows off its trumpet-shaped blooms.

the top, while the lower ones are green blotched with chocolate and sometimes yellow. Native to Africa and Indochina, it enjoys hot weather but sometimes melts in very high humidity.

Amaranthus were very popular in the 16th and 17th centuries and then enjoyed quite a revival during the Victorian era. This annual is not hard to grow, but it needs full sun and warm weather to thrive. It prefers well-drained soils, which makes it perfect for containers or coastal areas. Amaranthus do want consistent moisture, but overwatering them can kill them, so a little care is needed. A little fertilizer will encourage bigger plants; in the 19th century, plants were even grown to the six-foot range by adding horse manure to the compost and then watering them with water that had been steeped with pigeon dung. ♦

PERRY MATHEWES is Tryon Palace's curator of gardens.



Joseph's coat is prized for its multicolored leaves.



Friends Members Head to France — And There's More to Come

By Karen O'Connell

It is with great pleasure, mixed with more than a bit of regret, that I put pen to paper — or in these modern times, fingertips to keyboard — and do my first writing for *The Palace*. I am very pleased to have been asked to fill the position of Tryon Palace Council of Friends coordinator that was left vacant by the departure of Michelle Connell Drain. At the same time, I regret, as all at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens do, that Michelle has left our staff. Michelle was a vivacious and dynamic coordinator for the Council of Friends, and she will be greatly missed. She and husband Pete are moving to St. Louis, following his retirement from the Marine Corps. Best of luck, Michelle and Pete!

The Tryon Palace Council of Friends is an essential and active supporter of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, an organization of members dedicated to furthering the mission of this great historic site. I look forward to working with you as we continue to increase our membership and our support.



... And a Good Time Was Had by All

Following the annual meeting of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends on Apr. 6, nearly 100 of our members gathered for a picnic luncheon on the South Lawn of the Palace. Despite a windy and cool day, we all enjoyed the good food and the opportunity to spend time with friends. Thanks to everyone who attended and to those who helped out before, during, and after.



Pack Your Bags!

Tour leader Nelson McDaniel will be leading a group of Tryon Palace Council of Friends members in early September on a tour to the Savoy, Auvergne, and Bordeaux areas in the South of France. As anyone



Tryon Palace's own international tour guide, Nelson McDaniel, leads a group of Council of Friends members on a previous trip to France. He'll lead another group of members on a return visit to the South of France this September.

who has taken a Council of Friends' trip with Nelson in the past will happily tell you, the journeys he leads are always well-planned and a most enjoyable way to experience the culture of another country. We wish an enthusiastic bon voyage to all who will be participating in this very special Council of Friends event.

And what better time to remind everyone that extraordinary trips like these — open exclusively to members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends — are among the most-prized benefits of membership in the Council of Friends.

Even before Nelson and his group of intrepid voyagers depart for France, he's already begun planning next year's trip, a spectacular springtime excursion to Prague, Budapest, and Vienna. (Council of Friends members will be hearing more about the exciting 2003 trip — and receiving their personal invitations — in the months ahead. Watch your mailbox!)

These memorable trips fill up quickly. So if you don't want to miss out on an opportunity to join our 2003 European adventure, now is the time to be sure that you are a member of the Council of Friends. ♦

On the Benefits of Having — And Being — Friends

By Nancy Mansfield

The finances of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens are a curious amalgam of private and public money that is hard to describe simply and concisely. But I'm going to try to unravel a few issues that require clarification regarding the benefits and costs of membership in our support group, the Tryon Palace Council of Friends.

The benefits of the Council of Friends to Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens are many and mighty. Money provided by the Council of Friends traditionally has supported much of our truly special programming, from a good portion of our Christmas celebration to the character interpreters who help make the experience of visiting Tryon Palace memorable for tens of thousands each year. And in recent months, when budget cuts imposed by state government decimated funding for our operating expenses — the money we use to pay for everyday necessities like utilities and telephones — the Council of Friends stepped in yet again and helped to pay for these essential services. In short, the Council of Friends has played a critical role in keeping us alive and strong.

We like to think that we, in turn, do well in the benefits that we provide whenever someone chooses to become a member of the Council of Friends. This magazine, *The Palace*, keeps members up to date on Tryon Palace news and happenings, and we recently began augmenting it with a new monthly electronic newsletter that we deliver by e-mail to Council of Friends members who have shared their e-mail addresses with us. From time to time we also offer trips, special programs and social gatherings that are open only to members of the Council of Friends. (See the "News From Our Friends" column on page 9 for information on two exciting travel programs coming up in the months ahead.) But our most popular benefit by far is the annual pass. And herein lies the murky part of this tale.

When you join the Council of Friends and request an annual pass, the Council



Financial support from the Tryon Palace Council of Friends helps to pay for the character interpreter program, which introduces visitors to personalities from New Bern's history.

must purchase that pass for you from the state of North Carolina. That's because the state is the sole dispenser of tickets to Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, not surprising as we are a state-owned-and-operated agency.

It costs the Council of Friends \$40 to buy an adult annual pass — the exact same amount, you will note, that defines Associate (entry level) membership in the Council of Friends. The result, of course, is a wash; all the membership fee for our associate members goes to buying the annual pass, and the Council of Friends end up with no money in that bank. So, when we send an associate member *The Palace*, or an invitation to the Christmas Party, the Council foots the bill.

We are delighted that our members elect and use the annual pass benefit. There is much to do and see here, and we love to share it with you. But if you're a new or

renewing member of the Council of Friends consider these options as a way you can help the Council of Friends raise more of the money it needs to carry on its work of helping Tryon Palace:

- If you want the annual pass, consider membership at the Supporter (\$100) level or above. This gives the Council of Friends money to support Palace programming, as well as to buy the pass.
- If you don't plan to use an annual pass regularly and want to simplify your tax bookkeeping, say "no thank you" to the annual pass benefit. That way your whole contribution is tax-deductible.
- Or, decline the annual pass and buy a ticket when you come. We promise that you'll get your money's worth! ♦

NANCY MANSFIELD is the development officer at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.



The Tryon Palace Council of Friends welcomes the following new members who have joined since February 15, 2002:

SPONSOR

Charles L. Nance Jr., Wilmington

FAMILY/GRANDPARENTS

Carolyn Ballard, New Bern

Dr. and Mrs. William D. Bradford,
Durham

Marianna Hollinshed, Beaufort

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott W. Hudgins III,
New Bern

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John Zawitosky, Chocowinity

Our Wish List

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is fortunate to have so many friends and neighbors who stand ready, willing, and able to help meet a variety of needs. One of the most practical — and most rewarding — ways people help is by donating things that meet very specific needs. Here are a few items — some big, some small — that our staff members and volunteers tell us they need most right now. Of course, as always, if you don't happen to have the thing we need on hand, we'll be just as happy to accept a gift of the cash we'd need to buy it!

To make a donation toward any of these items, call Karen O'Connell at the Tryon Palace Council of Friends office at (252) 514-4933 or e-mail her at kocconnell@tryonpalace.org.

COMPUTERS: We need computers and software to replace aging models and to standardize our sitewide network. Minimum requirements for the computers are Pentium II (or equivalent) processor, 128 RAM, SVGA monitor, mouse, and 102-key keyboard, 10/100 MB network card, visual card 1024x768, CD ROM, 3.5-inch floppy, 10 GB hard drive; Windows

98SE operating system or higher with licenses (certificates). Office 2000 software is also high on the wish list.

LETTER FOLDING MACHINE: We are so thankful that our membership continues to increase. This increase does, however, result in a higher volume of mail. It would

be very helpful to have a machine to fold the hundreds of letters that need to be sent whenever we mail something to the entire membership. New or used is acceptable.

PIANO: We are hoping to have several musical groups volunteering during our Christmas candlelight tours this year. Most of these groups have requested that we provide a piano for their performances. In our last issue, we "wished for" a baby grand piano, but we will be happy to have any piano that is in good working order.

COOKING UTENSILS: Over at the Robert Hay House, Mrs. Hay does a lot of cooking for her household and would so much appreciate her efforts being made easier by the addition of some new cooking utensils. A set of six handmade maple spoons and the 1830s paring knife can be purchased for \$75 and \$35, respectively. Also on Mrs. Hay's wish list: a deep-dish ceramic pie plate and two tin wash pans for all the cleanup that follows the cooking.

8-BY-10-FOOT TRAILER WITH RAMP: Our garden staff is in need of a trailer to transport lawn maintenance equipment. The cost would be between \$600 and \$700. ♦

Leave a Legacy

When you are planning your estate, please consider including Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. Your gift will help to assure our future. A bequest directed to the "Tryon Palace Council of Friends" or the "Tryon Palace Commission" is the simplest way to leave a legacy. Cash, securities, real estate, or other property are all good gifts. We are delighted to talk with you, as well, about trusts, pooled income funds, and other ways to benefit the Palace while providing income to you during your lifetime. If you would like to discuss a planned gift, please call Nancy Mansfield, development officer, at (252) 514-4956. Your inquiry will be handled promptly and discreetly.

Please put Tryon Palace in your will, and please tell us when you do.



Goodies for the Garden

The Crafts and Garden Shop adjacent to the Tryon Palace Stable is the place to look for midsummer gardening goodies, supplies, and outdoor souvenirs for gardeners of any age.

As the big smiles on the faces of our young gardeners here hint, these great kid-sized garden tools are just what a junior gardener needs for the backyard, the local sandbox, or a trip to the beach. The handy tools cost \$12 a set, come in bright colors, and will stand up to plenty of wear and tear. And the bright red crocodile watering can (\$13) will help keep any pint-sized garden project fun throughout the summer.

For more senior garden hobbyists, our shelves are also stocked with a fresh supply of practical gardening books and entertaining products for the warm months ahead. So come anytime. The Crafts and Garden Shop is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. ♦



Tryon Palace Council of Friends

PO Box 1007, New Bern, NC 28563

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